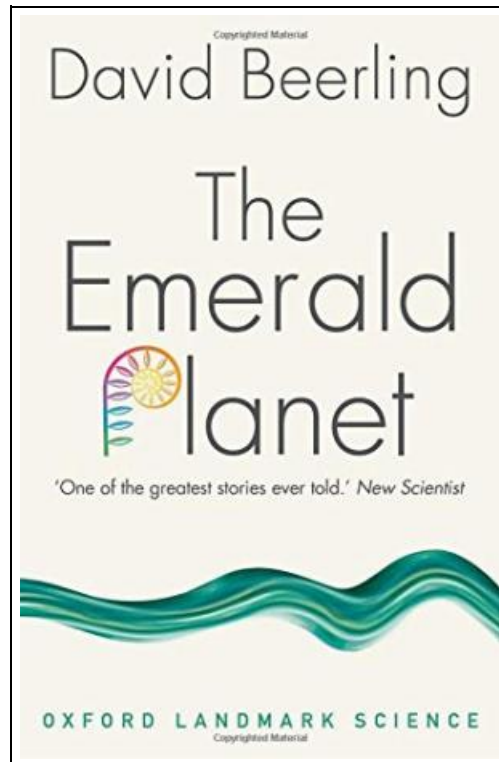


## The Emerald Planet: How plants changed Earth s history (Paperback)



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Oxford University Press, United Kingdom, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Plants have profoundly moulded the Earth s climate and the evolutionary trajectory of life. Far from being silent witnesses to the passage of time , plants are dynamic components of our world, shaping the environment throughout history as much as that environment has shaped them. In *The Emerald Planet*, David Beerling puts plants centre stage, revealing the crucial role they have played in driving global changes in the environment, in recording hidden facets of Earth s history, and in helping us to predict its future. His account draws together evidence from fossil plants, from experiments with their living counterparts, and from computer models of the Earth System , to illuminate the history of our planet and its biodiversity. This new approach reveals how plummeting carbon dioxide levels removed a barrier to the evolution of the leaf; how plants played a starring role in pushing oxygen levels upwards, allowing spectacular giant insects to thrive in the Carboniferous; and it strengthens fascinating and contentious fossil evidence for an ancient hole in the ozone layer. Along the way, Beerling introduces a lively cast of pioneering scientists from Victorian times onwards whose discoveries provided the crucial background to these and the other puzzles. This understanding of our planet s past sheds a sobering light on our own climate-changing activities, and offers clues to what our climatic and ecological futures might look like. There could be no more important time to take a close look at plants, and to understand the history of the world through the stories they tell. Oxford Landmark Science books are must-read classics of modern science writing which have crystallized big ideas, and shaped the way we think.



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